



MIRICK, O'CONNELL, DEMALLIE & LOUGEE, LLP
1700 WEST PARK DRIVE
WESTBOROUGH MA 01581

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JUN 22 2007

In re Application of
Peter J. Hayward et al.
Application No. 10/783,497
Filed: February 20, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 19642-00008

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

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: **DECISION ON PETITION**
: **UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)**
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This is a decision on the petition filed January 17, 2007, under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for the benefit of prior-filed non-provisional applications set forth in the amendment filed with the petition.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) and 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(i) and 1.78(a)(5)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition does not comply with item (1).

An amendment has been provided which notes that the instant application is a Continuation-in-Part of application no. 10/097,921. The amendment fails to note the relationship however between the instant application and application nos. 10/685,057 and 10/777,231. Thus the amendment fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) and is therefore unacceptable.

37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) requires that any nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending nonprovisional applications must contain or be

amended to contain a reference to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) and indicating the relationship of the applications. The relationship between the applications is whether the subject application is a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part of a prior-filed nonprovisional application. An example of a proper benefit claim is: "This application is a continuation of Application No. 10/---, filed---." A benefit claim that merely states: "This application claims the benefit of Application No. 10/---, filed---," does not comply with 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) since the proper relationship, which includes the type of continuing application, is not stated. Also, the status of each nonprovisional parent application (if it is patented or abandoned) should also be indicated, following the filing date of the parent nonprovisional application. See MPEP Section 201.11, Reference to Prior Nonprovisional Applications.

Before the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) can be granted, a renewed petition and either an Application Data Sheet or a substitute amendment (complying with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121 or 37 CFR 1.76(b)(5)) to correct the above matters are required.

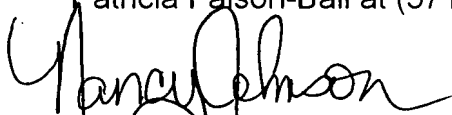
Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop PETITIONS
 Commissioner for Patents
 Post Office Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: Customer Service Window
 Mail Stop Petitions
 Randolph Building
 401 Dulany Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

By fax: (571) 273-8300
 ATTN: Office of Petitions

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Senior Petitions Attorney Patricia Faison-Ball at (571) 272-3212.



Nancy Johnson
Senior Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions